

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14

INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 EB-11

IGA-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /193 W  
----- 072503

P R 291031Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6222

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

RUESG

XAMEMBASSY ACCRA 649

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJECT: ARGUMENTS WITH SUCCESS

1. WFP REP EYBEN DISTRESSED BY NEWS HE RECEIVED FROM FAO ROME THAT USAID HAS DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN PROPOSED SCHEME TO SHIP RELIEF SUPPLIES FROM COTONOU BY TRUCK THROUGH NIGERIA TO NIGER. HIS CHAGRIN MAINLY BASED ON HIS SUPPOSITION THAT OTHER DONORS WILL NOT BE WILLING PARTICIPATE IN SCHEME, AND PAY ESTIMATED 65 PERCENT HIGHER TRANSPORT COSTS, IF U.S. IS NOT INCLUDED. HE CLAIMS WE HAVE BEEN GETTING MORE THAN OUR SHARE OF RAILWAY WAGONS BECAUSE OF THIS EMBASSY'S EFFECTIVE  
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PRESSURE TACTICS ON OCDN, SACOTRA AND MRGD. THIS DOES NOT SEEM

BORNE OUT BY MOST RECENT WAGON ALLOCATION FIGURES.

2. EYBEN AGREES WE CAN EVACUATE ALL OUR GRAIN BY JULY 1, IF WE CONTINUE SHIPPING AT PRESENT LEVELS. HOWEVER, HE ASKED THAT WE VOLUNTARILY REDUCE OUR SHARE OF WAGONS TO CORRESPOND TO OUR PERCENTAGE OF THE FOODSTUFFS BEING SHIPPED THROUGH COTONOU BY ALL DONORS. THIS WOULD BE ABOUT 30 PERCENT ACCORDING HIS FIGURES. EYBEN FEELS SUCH REDUCTION IN OUR RAIL SHIPMENTS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIAN ROAD EXPERIMENT.

3. I REFUSED TO SLACKEN OUR PRESSURE OR TO ACCEPT FEWER WAGONS THAN OFFERED. HOWEVER, I DID AGREE TO PUT HIS CASE TO AID/W AND RDO/FFPO NIAMEY, AND TO ABIDE BY THEIR DECISION. EYBEN HIMSELF IS HOPING TO VISIT NIAMEY MAY 30 TO PRESENT HIS OWN CASE TO FFPO PROUTY. HE HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH STEVENSON OF FAO/ROME TO COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR ALLEGED DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN NIGERIAN SCHEME.

4. AT NOON MAY 28, WE HAD ONLY 1600 MT IN PORT OUT OF TOTAL 10,500 MT FROM ALL DONORS. IF WE THROTTLE BACK, I AM NOT CONVINCED THAT SAME PACE OF EVACUATIONS WILL BE MAINTAINED. EYBEN HAS LITTLE CLOUT WITH FORWARDING AGENTS WHO TAKE ORDERS AND ARE PAID BY DONORS. SINCE U.S. IS ONLY DONOR WHICH HAS TAKEN DIRECT ACTION IN PUSHING FOR ACCELERATED SHIPMENT, SACOTRA HAS BEEN ONLY FORWARDING AGENT UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE TO PERFORM. IF LOCAL FRENCH, FED AND GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES TOOK EVEN MINIMAL INTEREST IN SHIPMENTS, TOTAL PERFORMANCE OF TRANSPORT SYSTEM MIGHT ALREADY BE IMPROVED. REGRETFULLY, AS POOR EYBEN IS FIRST TO ADMIT, NONE HAVE.

5. IN REVIEWING NUMBERS OF WAGONS ALLOCATED TO SACOTRA AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR FOODSTUFFS DURING PERIOD 5/13-5/28, WE FIND U.S. HAS BEEN GETTING ABOUT 30 PERCENT. DIFFERENCE IN PERFORMANCE SEEMS DUE MORE TO BETTER UTILIZATION BY U.S. RATHER THAN UNFAIR ALLOCATIONS. WHILE I AM SYMPATHETIC TO MR. EYBEN'S PLIGHT, I DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE PENALIZED BECAUSE OF OUR SUCCESS. MOREOVER, I AM NOT CONVINCED MORE FOOD WOULD REACH HUNGRY MOUTHS IN NIGER IF WE WERE TO SLACKEN OUR EFFORTS HERE. SURELY THE LATTER IS THE ONLY CONSIDERATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UPON WHICH DECISIONS SHOULD BE BASED.  
MCNAMARA

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, TRUCKS, CARGO HANDLING, AFDROUGHT, GRAINS, ROLLING STOCK  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974COTONO00826  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** COTONOU  
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**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13 JUN 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARGUMENTS WITH SUCCESS  
**TAGS:** EAID, ETRN, DM  
**To:** STATE NIAMEY  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005